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## DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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## ABC/LAPD RAID TWO EAST L.A. BARS FOR DRUGS/ILLEGAL SOLICITATION

Los Angeles – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and the Los Angeles Police Department conducted an investigation of two East Los Angeles bars Friday night, arresting 14 people and seizing quantities of drugs.

The joint operation was the result of an undercover investigation by ABC Investigators who purchased cocaine in the Copas De Oro, 2936 Caesar Chavez Avenue. The undercover investigators were also solicited by women to purchase them alcohol at inflated prices who then split the profit with the bar, a violation of state law.

Taken into custody at the Copas De Oro on narcotics charges were 35-year-old Juan Carlos Martinez, 20-year-old Fernando Silva, 33-year-old Daniel Ayala, and 37-year-old Martin Rodriguez. Four women were arrested for the illegal solicitation of alcohol.

Arrested for possession for sale of illegal drugs at El Jirasol Bar, 3105 Wabash Avenue, was 26-year-old Oswaldo Quiroz. Five women were also cited for illegal solicitation of alcohol.

The undercover operation began after area residents complained to city and state officials about the rising amount of crime emanating from East Los Angeles Bars, and the problems they were causing for the local community.

ABC licensed businesses where drug activities occur face possible suspension or even revocation of their liquor license, depending on the seriousness of the situation.

Bars that allow the illegal solicitation of alcohol also face serious penalties because of the inherent crime connected with the solicitation. Businesses that allow the solicitation generally have higher incidents of crime, such as drugs, fights, shootings, stabbings and other illegal activity. Women soliciting for alcohol face a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or six months in the county jail.

Penalties for the bars will be determined after a thorough review of the crime report.